

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Thomas, R. and R. Powell. 1994. *Typhlops tetrathyreus*.

***Typhlops tetrathyreus* Thomas**

*Typhlops lumbricalus*: Cochran, 1924 (part) (not of Linnaeus, 1758: 228).

*Typhlops lumbricalus*: Cochran, 1941 (part) (not of Linnaeus, 1758: 228).

*Typhlops lumbricalus*: Richmond, 1964 (part) (not of Linnaeus, 1758: 228).

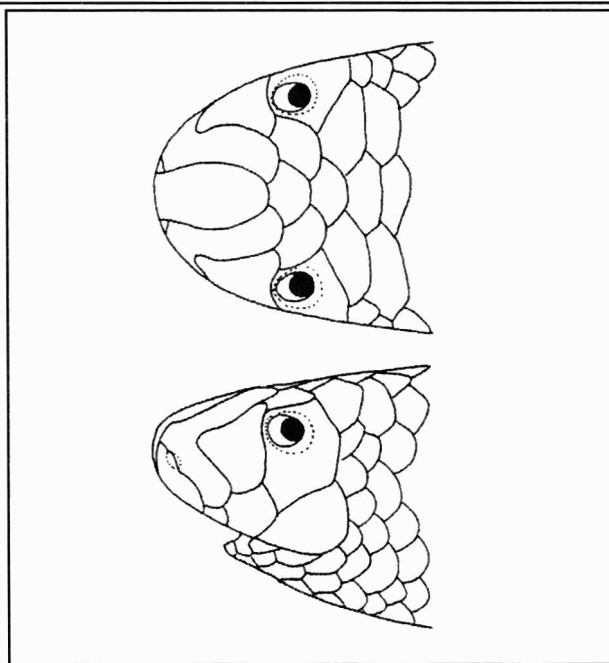
*Typhlops lumbricalis*: Thomas, 1974 (part) (not of Linnaeus, 1758: 228).

*Typhlops* 1. Subspecies B: Thomas, 1976:27.

*Typhlops tetrathyreus* Thomas, 1989:414. Type-locality, "3 mi. (4.8 km) N Pétionville, Dépt. de l'Ouest, Haiti." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 208793, an adult female collected by "Marcellus" on 28 November 1970 (examined by RT).

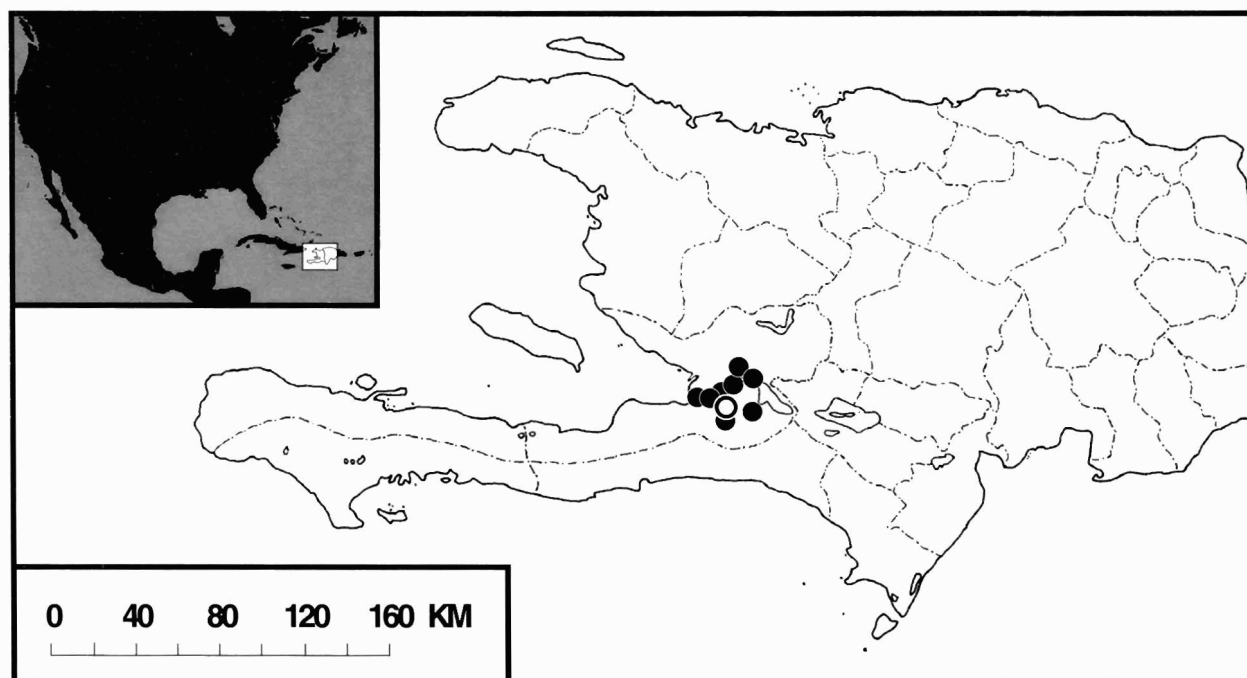
• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Typhlops tetrathyreus* is a large, stout blind snake characterized by (see Thomas, 1976 and 1989, for complete explanations of characters): (1) snout rounded; (2) rostral in dorsal aspect a narrow oval to parallel-sided (RW/RL 0.52-0.66), oval (mode), not flared on apex, labial margin slightly flared; (3) preocular subtriangular, broadly angled (48-78°), apex rounded, lower portion contacting only 3rd of upper labials; (4) ocular length about 2/3 height, sinuosity 0.16-0.07; (5) postnasal pattern calyculate; (6) postoculars two, cycloid, similar in size to body scales; (7) 1st parietal standard, spanning 2 scale rows; (8) 2nd parietal standard, spanning 2 scale rows; 1st and 2nd parietals co-occurring bilaterally in 84% of the specimens, unilaterally in 8%, single in 8%; (9) TL to 273 mm; (10) TL/tail length in males 22-37, females 26-41; (11) TL/midbody diameter 23-38; (12) middorsal scales 237-282 ( $\bar{x}$  = 265.1); (13) scale rows 20-18 with reduction occurring at about midbody (46-67% TL); (14) coloration extensive, dark brown dorsal pigmentation extending onto ventrolateral surfaces and fading onto venter, facial pigmentation dark and extensive, extending over sides of head onto ventrolateral surface, rostral pigmented over nearly all of its length; (15) rectal caecum present; (16) hemipenes expanded, apical region



**Figure.** Head of *Typhlops tetrathyreus* (ASFS V22440) (from Thomas, 1989).

oblique in completely everted organs; (17) cranium broad, sides of parietals tapering very slightly; (18) premaxilla broad, about 40% of width across prefrontals, slightly convex, not protuberant, posteroventral edge transverse, making a right-angle juncture with narrow blade; (19) nasals without lateral angles; (20) septomaxilla with sliver of bone extending along lateral margin of naris, anterior portion tapered; (21) frontal-parietal suture transverse, slightly sinuous; (22) frontal with mostly unfused anterior ventral blade-like process; (23) optic foramen canalicular; (24) postorbital process of parietal prominent; (25) temporal ridge of parietal present; (26) lappet of prootic very prominent, in broad contact with sphenoid and parietal (apparently fused with tongue, tongue not visible),



**Map.** Distribution of *Typhlops tetrathyreus* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The large circle marks the type-locality, dots indicate other records.

foramen isolated; (27) supraoccipitals unfused, in broad median contact; (28) exoccipitals not fused with prootics; (29) angular not sliver-like; (30) dorsal process of quadrate hooked; (31) atlantal hypapophysis prominent, bladeliike, 5-6 total hypapophyses; (32) hyoid U-shaped, composed of 2 fused ceratobranchials, basihyal absent; (33) pelvic moieties in females absent or composed of 2 small rodlike ischia, in males prominent and hatchet-shaped with broad pubic process and more slender ilium and ishium; (34) eye moderate with narrow orbital space.

• **Diagnosis.** This large, stout *Typhlops* (to 273 mm TL) is distinguished by the following combination of characters: 4 parietals; an oval rostral; a calyculate to weakly divergent rostronasal pattern; moderately angled preocular (48-78°) with rounded apex, contacting only 3rd of supralabials; bicolor pigmentation on body and reduced facial pigmentation extending onto rostral; no pigment collar; low to moderate number of middorsal scales (261-294); scale rows 20 reducing to 18 near midbody; two preoculars; hemipenis expanded with a diagonal apex; prominent blade-like atlantal hypapophyses; U-shaped hyoid; pelvic moieties with ilium, ischium, and pubis fused and L-shaped.

• **Descriptions.** In addition to the original of Thomas (1989), Thomas (1976) (as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies B), and Schwartz and Henderson (1991) provided descriptions of this species.

• **Illustrations.** Thomas (1976 [as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies B], 1989) provided line drawings of the head, the former included drawings of the septomaxilla and cranium.

• **Distribution.** This species is found principally in the Cul-de-Sac Plain of Haiti, with some records from the north slope of the La Selle immediately to the south and the south slopes of the Montagnes de Trou d'Eau to the north.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** In addition to the original description of Thomas (1989), in which he discussed relationships among Antillean congeners and provided a key, Cochran (1924, 1941) discussed this species as *Typhlops lumbricalis*. Thomas (1974) discussed *T. tetrathyreus* as *T. lumbricalis* and (1976) as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies B. SEA/DVS (1990) provided an index to habitats in the Dominican Republic (as *T. lumbricalis*).

• **Etymology.** The name *tetrathyreus* is from the Greek, *tetra*, four, and *thyreos*, shield.

• **Comment.** A specimen of this species (AMNH 67881), apparently collected by Beebe in Haiti and mislabelled, was the basis for Beebe's (1919) inclusion of *Typhlops lumbricalis* in the fauna of

Guyana (Schwartz and Thomas, 1975). Additional references to this species may be buried in the literature pertaining to *Typhlops lumbricalis*.

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